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United States Patent [19]**Zoken**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,944,787**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 31, 1999**[54] **METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY FINDING
POSTAL ADDRESSES FROM E-MAIL
ADDRESSES**5,801,702 9/1998 Dolan 345/357
5,805,719 9/1998 Pare, Jr. 382/115
5,805,810 9/1998 Maxwell 709/206[75] Inventor: **Jack M. Zoken**, Sunnyvale, Calif.[73] Assignee: **Sift, Inc.**, Sunnyvale, Calif.[21] Appl. No.: **08/840,574**[22] Filed: **Apr. 21, 1997**[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 17/00**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **709/206; 709/200**[58] **Field of Search** 395/200.36, 200.3,
395/200.62; 382/115; 705/26; 345/357,
329, 349; 358/402, 400, 407; 379/88.18;
709/206, 207, 208, 234[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**5,508,817 4/1996 Kunigami 358/402
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5,799,285 8/1998 Klingman 705/26**Primary Examiner**—Ahmad F. Matar**Assistant Examiner**—Khanh Quang Dinh**Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Luhlen Intellectual Property
Services[57] **ABSTRACT**

An email mapper to identify sender's U.S. postal address by detecting in the sender's email address, email message, or the sender's posting whether the sender's name and address are identifiable in the signature line of the sender's email and searching one or more electronic white pages to identify the sender's name and postal address. Wherein if no signature line is detected in the sender's email further filtering the sender's email to identify the geographic locale of the sender and then searching against one or more electronic databases, such as a business database, an ISP database, an electronic whitepage, or email mapper's generated relational database, to identify and generate a list of one or more USPS addresses associated with the sender's email address, name and locale of the sender.

9 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets